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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EFIS](#) [PBTS](#) [PHSA](#) [PREL](#) [JA](#) [KS](#)
SUBJECT: SEEKING UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF JAPAN-KOREA EEZ
TALKS

REF: A. SEOUL 1433 AND PREVIOUS
[1](#)B. TOKYO 2221 AND PREVIOUS

[1](#)1. (U) This is an action message) see para 3 for action.
Background in para 2 is provided for Post's information only.

Background

[1](#)2. (SBU) In April, tensions between South Korea and Japan flared up when Japan announced plans to carry out a hydrographic survey in disputed waters near the Liancourt Rocks. The situation was defused when the ROK and Japan reached agreement to work out problems, including restarting negotiations on resolving Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) disputes (now scheduled for June 12-13). The Department remains interested in the progress of these talks. Using points provided below, action addressees are requested to relay points to appropriate ROKG and GOJ counterparts.

Talking Points

[1](#)3. (U) Tokyo and Seoul are requested to relay the following points to appropriate government counterparts. Seoul is also requested to deliver the additional point in para 4. At your discretion, you may advise counterparts that similar messages are being delivered in both capitals.

BEGIN TALKING POINTS

-- We welcomed your government's recent agreement with Japan/Korea over the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) dispute near Liancourt Rocks. We understand that the compromise included the following points:

(a) Tokyo would put off plans to engage in a hydrographic survey of disputed waters near Liancourt Rocks for the purpose of mapping and naming undersea topography, and

(b) Seoul would delay "until an appropriate time" plans to put forward to the Subcommittee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) a proposal to rename underwater features in the disputed area, and

(c) Both countries agreed to restart dormant negotiations on resolving EEZ disputes, currently scheduled for June 12-13.

-- We note the resumption of your mutual negotiations in mid-June. We would be interested in hearing about your expectations for these talks. What do you see as the main outstanding issues for each side? What do you anticipate will be the most difficult items to resolve for each side?

14. (U) Additional point for Seoul:

--We note that you agreed to delay "until an appropriate time" submitting proposals to rename underwater features in the disputed area to the SCUFN. We would be interested in learning whether, at the upcoming June 12-13 negotiations, your government intends to discuss with Japan when such an "appropriate time" might occur.

END TALKING POINTS

15. (SBU) Please report any substantive response to EAP/K and EAP/J.
RICE